

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00027 031638Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 031603Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1124

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0027

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, RH, UK, SF, ZA

SUBJECT: BRITISH ASSESSMENT OF CALLAGHAN VISIT TO ZAMBIA

1. BRITISH HICOM (MILES) BRIEFED ME ON FIRST VISIT
TO ZAMBIA OF FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN, HIGHPOINTS OF WHICH
WERE TWO HOUR CONVESERSATION WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AT HIS
FARM IN CHINSALI IN THE NORTH AND HIS PRESS CONFERENCE
ANNOUNCING HE WOULD MEET SOUTH AFRICANPRIME MINISTER
VORSTER SOMETIME THIS WEEKEND.

2. CALLAGHAN DEPARTED LUSAKA JUST BEFORE NOON
FRI, JAN 3, IN ZAMBIA AIRWAYS VISCOUNT FOR
GABORONE WHERE HE WILL SPEND AFTERNOON AND EVENING
AS GUEST OF BOTSWANA PRESIDENT SERETSE KHAMA.
CONFIRMATION EXPECTED MOMENTARILY FROM SAG
BUT PLAN CALLS FOR CALLAGHAN FLY TO PRETORIA/JOHANNESBURG
MORNING OF JAN 4 (APPARENTLY FIRST VISIT OF ZAMBIA
AIRWAYS PLANE TO SOUTH AFRICA). THERE HE WILL PICK
UP HIS BRITISH RAF COMET AND FLY TO PORT
ELIZABETH FOR MEETING WITH VORSTER.
CALLAGHAN WILL RETURN TO LUSAKA EARLY EVENING

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00027 031638Z

JAN 4 AND GO IMMEDIATELY TO BRITISH HICOM'S RESIDENCE

WHERE HE WILL MEET WITH ANC LEADERS WHO SHOULD ARRIVE IN LUSAKA EITHER JAN 3 OR JAN 4, ASSUMING ZAMBIANS CAN REINSTATE ABORTED MEETING ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JAN 2. CALLAGHAN WILL SPEND EVENING JAN 4 IN LUSAKA AND FLY ON TO BLANTYRE SUNDAY, JAN 5.

3. MILES TOLD ME THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN HAD BEEN VERY MUCH PERSUADED BY ZAMBIAN ARGUMENTS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MUST BECOME MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. THIS NOT ONLY BECAUSE HMG RECOGNIZES ITS SOVEREIGN RESPONSIBILITY OVER RHODESIA BUT BECAUSE THE ZAMBIANS WERE CONVINCING IN ARGUING THEY HAD GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS THEY COULD ON THEIR OWN AND IN CONCERT WITH BOTSWANA AND TANZANIA. IN FACT, CALLAGHAN CONFIRMED THIS DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEPARTURE FOR BOTSWANA. TURNING TO FONMIN MWAANGA HZHSID HE BELIEVED HMG AND GRZ HAD ACHIEVED THE OBJECTIVE WHICH MWAANGA SOUGHT IN HIS AUGUST MEETING WITH CALLAGHAN, WHICH WAS TO COORDINATE BRITISH AND ZAMBIAN POLICIES TOWARD A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. MILES EXPLAINED THE BRITISH WERE, OF COURSE, INSISTENT THE AFRICANS GIVE PUBLIC SUPPORT TO ANY INITIATIVES WHICH THEY ARE URGING THE BRITISH TO TAKE. THIS IN FACT WAS DONE BY THE ZAMBIANS IN URGING AND SUPPORTING CALLAGHAN TO MEET WITH VORSTER.

4. AS A RESULT OF THE KAUNDA-CALLAGHAN CONVERSATION THE BRITISH WERE ALSO PERSUADED TO GET IN MORE DIRECT CONTACT WITH PARTIES IN RHODESIA. BUT AS CALLAGHAN POINTED OUT IN REPLY TO A QUESTION DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, IAN SMITH HAS NOT REQUESTED MEETING WITH HIM. MILES ADDED TO ME THAT CALLAGHAN WAS NOT SEEKING SMITH OUT AND THUS CALLAGHAN DOES NOT WANT TO GO TO RHODESIA OR SOUTH AFRICA IN APES OF SEEPT SMITH. CALLAGHAN WILL HOWEVER MEET WITH MINORITY LEADER TIM GIBBS OF RHODESIA WHO WILL BE GOING TO GABORONE TO MEET HIM.

5. MILES REPEATED WHAT FCO DEPUTY UNDER
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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00027 031638Z

SECRETARY ALAN CAMBELL TOLD ME AT THE AIRPORT THAT THE ZAMBIANS AND OTHER AFRICANS JPEAR OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR A SETTLEMENT. THIS IS BECAUSE THE BRITISH HAVE NOT DRAWN FROM SMITH'S PUBLIC DECLARATIONS OR ACTIONS CONVINCING PROOF THAT HE HAS SUFFICIENTLY ALTERED HIS BASIC POLITICAL VIEWS ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, LIBERALIZED FRANCHISE OR A TIMETABLE FOR MAJORITY

RULE. BRITISH BELIEVE ANC AND AFRICAN BACKERS WILL
CONTINUE TO DEMAND MUCH MORE THAN SMITH HAS SO FAR
OFFERED AND IF UNABLE TO ACHIEVE TTIR OBJECTIVES
PEACEFULLY MAY RETURN TO FORCE. IN HIS PRESS
CONFERENCE ON DEPARTURE CALLAGHAN DREW ON VORSTER'S
WORDS IN SAYING THIS WOULD BE "TOO GHASTLY TO CONTEMPLATE."
THIS SPLIT IN POLITICAL OBJECTIVES BETWEEN SMITH AND
ANC IS WHAT CAUSES BRITISH TO BE MORE PESSIMISTIC
THAN OPTIMISTIC IN THEIR PRESENT VIEWS OF RHODESIAN
SETTLEMENT. YET BRITISH HAVE CHOSEN TO SOLDIER ON WITH
AFRICANS WITHOUT GIVING UP HOPE.
WILKOWSKI

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